

REMARKS

Applicants request favorable reconsideration and allowance of the subject application in view of the preceding amendments and the following remarks.

Applicants note that the Examiner has not acknowledged Applicants' claim for foreign priority. Applicants submitted a certified copy of the priority document on January 8, 2004, and submitted a second certified copy of the priority document on August 13, 2009. Applicants also attach hereto a copy of the PAIR printout indicating receipt of both of these documents on those days. Accordingly, Applicants submit that their claim for foreign priority has been timely made and all requirements have been met. Accordingly, Applicants request that the Examiner acknowledge receipt of the priority documents, as well as Applicants' claim for foreign priority. Such favorable indication is requested.

Claims 27-30 are presented for consideration. Claims 27 and 29 are independent and have been amended to clarify features of the subject invention. Support for these changes can be found in the original application, as filed. Accordingly, no new matter has been added.

Applicants request favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection and rejections set forth in the above-noted Office Action.

The Examiner objected to the abstract. Applicants have amended the abstract in accordance with the Examiner's comments. Applicants submit that the amended abstract overcomes this objection. Such favorable indication is requested.

Turning now to the art rejections, claims 27, 29 and 30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0014146 to Beyda et al. Claim 28 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over the Beyda et al. publication in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,026,156 to Epler et al. Applicants submit that the cited

art, whether taken individually or in combination, does not teach or suggest many features of the present invention, as previously recited in these claims. Therefore, these rejections are respectfully traversed. Nevertheless, Applicants submit that independent claims 27 and 29, for example, as presented, amplify the distinctions between the present invention and the cited art.

In one aspect of the present invention, independent claim 27 recites an information processing apparatus for executing a predetermined procedure corresponding to a command designated by a user. The apparatus includes a database which holds (i) a plurality of candidates corresponding to a plurality of commands and (ii) command groups, each command group including a plurality of commands related to each other, a selection unit which selects (i) a command group from the database in response to a user operation and (ii) the candidates from the database that correspond to the plurality of commands in the selected command group, a voice output unit that receives from the selection unit the selected candidates and outputs each selected candidate one at a time as voice information, a decision button which is operable by the user to designate any one of the selected candidates output by the voice output unit, and a determination unit which determines (i) which one of the candidates is designated by the user and (ii) a command in the database that corresponds to the designated candidate.

In another aspect of the present invention, independent claim 29 recites a method of controlling an information processing apparatus, which executes a predetermined procedure corresponding to a command designated by a user, and includes a database which holds (i) a plurality of candidates corresponding to a plurality of commands and (ii) command groups, each command group including a plurality of commands related to each other, a voice output unit that outputs a candidate as voice information and a decision button operable by the user to designate any candidate output by the voice output unit. The method includes the steps of selecting (i) a

command group from the database, in response to a user operation and (ii) the candidates from the database that correspond to the plurality of commands in the selected command group, receiving from the selecting step the selected candidates in the voice output unit, outputting, by the voice output unit, each selected candidate one at a time as the voice information, and determining (i) which one of the candidates is designated by operation of the decision button by the user and (ii) a command in the database which corresponds to the designated candidate.

In Applicants' invention, as recited in independent claims 27 and 29, when the user operates the decision button during the voice information corresponding to one candidate that is output by the voice output unit, a command corresponding to that candidate is determined as the designated command, and when the user operates the decision button during the voice information corresponding to another candidate that is output by the voice output unit, a command corresponding to the other candidate is determined as the designated command.

The present invention provides advantages over conventional arrangements. For example, the present invention provides the ability to reliably designate which candidate a user has chosen. For example, a voice output unit may output as voice information a variety of paper sizes such as, "automatic," "A4," "A4R," and "A3," sequentially. When the user hears a candidate he desires, the user presses the decision button. For example, when the user hears "A4," the user presses the decision button and the "A4" command is sent to the image forming apparatus. Therefore, a command is determined from a relationship between the voice information corresponding to a variety of candidates being output, and an operation of the decision button. If the decision button is operated when "A4" is outputted, a command will not be designated for "automatic," "A4R," or "A3." A user, therefore, will not mistakenly press the

wrong button, but rather, will press a single button when the user hears the output of a candidate that matches their desired candidate.

Applicants submit that the cited art does not teach or suggest such features of Applicants' present invention, as recited in independent claims 27 and 29.

Beyda et al. relates to an apparatus and a method for improving the user interface of integrated voice response systems. Beyda et al. discloses a plurality of prompts 204a-204c presented one after another to a user. At each prompt, the user may be given the option of pressing a particular button or speaking a particular phrase to proceed to a next function or level. *See* paragraph [0041] of Beyda et al. As shown in Figure 9 of Beyda et al., each prompt is associated with a particular button. For example, the menu presented to the user may say "PRESS 3 to see if a check cleared; PRESS 2 to transfer funds; PRESS 1 for account balances; and PRESS 4 to verify a deposit." *See* paragraph [0050] of Beyda et al. Therefore, each function is associated with a separate button. Since each function is associated with a separate button, a different operation may be selected than the operation currently being read as a prompt. Therefore, the user may accidentally press the wrong button and receive the wrong function. Therefore, Beyda et al. does not teach or suggest at least a decision button which is operable by a user to designate any one of selected candidates output by a voice output unit, as in Applicants' invention as recited in independent claims 27 and 29. Beyda et al. further does not teach or suggest features of Applicants invention as recited in those independent claims, such that when the user operates the decision button during voice information corresponding to one candidate that is output by a voice output unit, a command corresponding to that candidate is determined as a designated command, and when the user operates the decision button during the voice information corresponding to another candidate that is output by the voice output unit, a

command corresponding to the other candidate is determined as the designated command.

Accordingly, Beyda et al. does not teach or suggest many features of the present invention as recited in independent claims 27 and 29.

Applicants further submit that the remaining cited art does not cure the deficiencies noted above of Beyda et al.

Epler et al. relates to an enhanced call waiting system. As shown in Figure 4B of Epler et al., a user is presented with a variety of options, each option relating to a specific button. In order to select a specific option, the button relating to that option must be pressed. However, Epler et al. does not teach or suggest at least a decision button which is operable by a user to designate any one of selected candidates output by a voice output unit, as in Applicants' invention as recited in independent claims 27 and 29. Further, Epler et al., as with Beyda et al., does not teach or suggest features of Applicants' invention as recited in those independent claims, such that when the user operates the decision button during voice information corresponding to one candidate that is output by a voice output unit, a command corresponding to that candidate is determined as a designated command, and when the user operates the decision button during the voice information corresponding to another candidate that is output by the voice output unit, a command corresponding to the other candidate is determined as the designated command. Accordingly, Epler et al. adds nothing to the teachings of Beyda et al. that would render obvious Applicants' invention, as recited in independent claims 27 and 29.

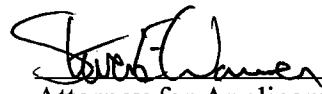
For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that the present invention, as recited in independent claims 27 and 29, is patentably defined over the cited art, whether that art is taken individually or in combination.

Dependent claims 28 and 30 also should be deemed allowable, in their own right, for defining other patentable features of the present invention in addition to those recited in their respective independent claims. Applicants' request further individual consideration of these dependent claims is requested.

Applicants submit that the instant application is in condition for allowance. Applicants request favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the above-noted Office Action, and an early Notice of Allowance.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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10/687,697 Information processing apparatus and information processing method 01-26-2010::15:40:34

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Bibliographic Data

Mail Room Date	Document Code	Document Description	Document Category	Page Count
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11-12-2009	892	List of references cited by examiner	PROSECUTION	1
11-12-2009	FWCLM	Index of Claims	PROSECUTION	1
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